

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 915.32

and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such fiscal year;

(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;

(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;

(f) To cause its books to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each fiscal year, and at such other times as the Secretary may request;

(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;

(h) To investigate growing and maturity conditions of avocados, and to assemble data in connection therewith;

(i) To engage in such research relating to the determination of maturity and grade standards for avocados as may be approved by the Secretary;

(j) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(k) To notify, as provided in this part, producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulation;

(l) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;

(m) To consult with such representatives of growers or groups of growers as may be deemed necessary and to pay the travel expenses incurred by such representatives in attending committee meetings at the request of the committee: *Provided*, That the committee shall not pay the travel expenses of more than three such representatives in connection with any one meeting of the committee; and

(n) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part.

§ 915.30 Procedure.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, six members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum and any decision, recommendation or other action of the committee shall re-

quire not less than five concurring votes including one by a handler, or an alternate acting as such: *Provided*, That if the committee is increased by one, the quorum requirement shall be increased to seven and any decision, recommendation or other action of the committee shall require not less than six concurring votes including one by a handler, or an alternate acting as such.

(b) The committee may provide for simultaneous meetings of groups of its members assembled at two or more designated places: *Provided*, That such meetings shall be subject to the establishment of telephone communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place.

(c) For any recommendation of the committee for an assessment rate exceeding \$0.20 per bushel to be applied pursuant to § 915.41, the quorum requirement shall be eight members or alternates acting for members and eight concurring votes shall be required.

[19 FR 3439, June 11, 1954, as amended at 22 FR 3513, May 21, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 43 FR 39322, Sept. 5, 1978]

§ 915.31 Expenses.

The members of the committee and their respective alternates when performing duties at the direction of the committee, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part.

[43 FR 39323, Sept. 5, 1978]

§ 915.32 Annual report.

The committee shall, as soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary, and to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review, by districts, of the regulatory operations during the fiscal year; (b) an appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the avocado industry;